
A SPANISH COLLECTION OF EMBLEM BOOKS

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OF* ALL THE extant inventories of private libraries of the Spanish golden age, there can be little doubt that one of the most extensive and interesting is the following:

Joseph Maldonado y Pardo, *Museo, o Biblioteca de el Exc.^{mo} Señor Don Pedro Nuñez de Guzmán, Marqués de Montealegre*, Madrid, 1677.¹

Some years ago, A. Rodríguez-Moñino, in a series of articles in the *Boletín de la Real Academia de la Historia* (CXXVI, 1950, 427-92, CXXVII, 1950, 307-344, 561-627, CXXVIII, 1951, 219-44), published those portions of the catalogue which pertain to manuscript material.

In the present note, we should like to discuss the portions of the inventory dealing with emblem books, for they disclose one of the richest collections of emblem books to have been noted in a Spanish private library of the period. This may also serve as another indication of the vast popularity and vogue of emblem literature in the seventeenth century.

There are two sections in the inventory devoted to *emblemata*: part I, chap. 7 (pp. 22-23): "Symbola, Hieroglyphica et Emblemata", and part II, chap. 21 (p. 97): "Varias empresas y emblemas, y libros de medallas". The first section contains about fifty items, among which we note works by the following authors: Alciato (of course!), the commentaries to Alciato by Francisco Sánchez, Minois, and Diego López, Boxhorn, Juan de Borja, Camerarius, Caussin, Giovio, Juan Horozco y Covarrubias, Hermann Hugo, Hadrianus Junius, Mercier, Paradin, Pietrasanta, Reusner, Saavedra Fajardo, Sambucus, Schoonhovius, Simeoni,

* I should like to express my sincerest appreciation to Dr. Stanley Pargellis and the Newberry Library for kindly permitting me to consult this rare catalogue during my tenure as Fellow of this distinguished Library in the summer of 1958.

1. Consult especially Fernando Huarte Morton, "Las bibliotecas particulares españolas de la edad moderna", *Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos*, LXI, no. 2, 1955, 555-76 and Archer Taylor, *Book Catalogues: Their Varieties and Uses* (Chicago: The Newberry Library, 1957). I hope to prepare an edition of the Nuñez de Guzmán catalogue at an early date.

Solórzano Pereyra, Hernando de Soto, Taurellus, Typotius, Vaenius, Giovanni Pierio Valeriano, and Villava.² It is curious to note that in the same section we also find listed the pseudo-treatise on hieroglyphs by Joannes Goropius Becanus and four of the vastly popular books on aspects of the occult by the Jesuit Athanasius Kircher.

The second section is shorter and lists eight emblem books: Saavedra Fajardo, Juan de Borja, Solórzano Pereyra, Villava, Horozco y Covarrubias, Hernando de Soto, Alciato translated by Diego López, and Paolo Giovio in the translation of Alonso de Ulloa. These are, however, all items listed earlier.

Not so strange at all, a section on numismatics is appended containing four treatises, among them the well-known translation by Juan Martín Cordero of Rovinge's work, and the *Museo de las medallas desconocidas españolas* by Lastanosa, Gracián's patron.

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2. For the identification of these emblem books, consult Mario Praz, *Studies in Seventeenth-Century Imagery*. Vol. II. *A Bibliography of Emblem Books* (London, 1947).